

March 18, 1976

that it is difficult enough to bind a succeeding legislature as with our own, to any action that we might undertake. Secondly, that when you try to coordinate the activity of five state legislatures, four of them two house legislatures and five governors you run into other problems. Now, I'm not saying that it can not be done, but I am suggesting that before we commit ourselves to spend a sum of money that we should have some iron clad guarantees, if that is possible, as to the extent of involvement that will be required of Nebraska and of all Nebraskans and as to the extent of responsibility that will be ours in the event that one of the other four states decide that they are not interested. Another question that has not been answered, and I visited briefly with Dr. Cole about this, was that in the event that the institution was built in Lincoln, and in the event that one of the states decided that they could not afford their contribution, or their assessment for the operation of that school, then what would happen to the institution in-so-far as Nebraska's responsibility is concerned. That question was not answered at that time to my satisfaction. I think that we can all guess pretty well what would happen if the institution is here at Nebraska and one or two of the other states decide to go another route. I think that we would be forced to support the school. Now, there was considerable discussion yesterday on this floor about the deliberations of the budget committee in the area of the University of Nebraska. I know that those questions that were raised were raised in good faith. They were raised in good faith because the State of Nebraska and the Governor has been the leader in this area has been concerned about fiscal responsibility to the extent that the university budget is scrutinized very closely. I would suggest perhaps that the members of this legislature are concerned about excellence at the university and they are concerned about the shortage of veterinarians. I am a farmer and I know that in the county of Butler County, where I reside, a number of veterinarians have left the state, have left the practice of private veterinary medicine in the last ten or fifteen years. I think that eight or ten of them have left. Only one of them today is presently practicing large animal practice. He is doing that in the State of Kansas. They didn't leave Butler County because they were making a lot of money. They left Butler County because the opportunity was better elsewhere. In most cases it was better outside of private practice. It was good in the area of meat inspection and governmental service. Dr. Cole told us that by 1990 we would need 1,100 veterinarians in the state. I would suggest that most of those veterinarians certainly will not be engaged in large animal practice. Certainly most of them will be engaged in practice of the kind of work that is required because subdivisions of government, state and federal, have instituted rules and regulations that require meat inspection, health inspection and that sort of thing. I would suppose in my opinion, that perhaps it is a greater responsibility of the federal government to fund these institutions than is presently being taken care of. I would think that perhaps when you look at it from the standpoint of Dr. Cole's figures in which he projected increased numbers of livestock by 1990, that the livestock producers of Nebraska are not so much